

THE  
LAST CONFESSION  
AND  
DYING SPEECH  
OF  
*PETER PORCUPINE,*  
WITH  
AN ACCOUNT OF HIS DISSECTION.

---

NEW-YORK:  
PRINTED AND SOLD—Price One Shilling.

—  
1797.



THE  
CONFESSION

AND

*Dying Speech of Peter Porcupine,  
&c.*

---

I WAS born in Old England ; my grandfather was a day labourer. He died before I was born ; but I often slept beneath the same roof that sheltered him, and where his widow dwelt for several years after his death. It was a little thatched cottage with a garden before the door. Here I and my brothers went every Christmas and Whitsuntide to spend a week or two, and *torment* the poor old woman with our noise and *dilapidations*. Such was my propensity to vice, that I could not resist the temptation to *pilfer* even from my grandmother. In this I discovered a baseness and a depravity which rogues disavow ; for they make it a point of honour not to steal from each other. My grandfather was no philosopher---alas ! it would have been well for me if he had been ; for then his precepts as well as examples would have instilled principles into my mind, which would have preserved me from the ignominious fate I am about to suffer. The legacies he left, were a



large bundle of false keys, a pair of pistols, a dagger and a masque—The false keys he used to open locks with, which were not his own ---the pistols were employed to support himself with on the highway---the dagger to put an enemy or a suspected friend *slily* out of the way, and the masque to keep himself from being known when he was engaged in any of his diurnal or nocturnal avocations.

My father when I was born, was of the profession of my grandfather---The reader will easily believe, from the pursuits of his parents, that he received no very brilliant education: he was however very *ingenius* for a man in his rank of life---When a little boy he used to pilfer from other boys their chuckers, their marbles, and their tops, and these his earnings were appropriated to the expences of finishing an education which he had begun under a set of sharpers, who held their nocturnal revels in a tavern in the neighbourhood. What these men could be expected to teach, he had learnt, and had besides considerably improved himself in several other branches of the *pad*. He understood shop lifting, pocket-picking, & several other branches of similar sciences well, and was often chosen to draw plans for successful burglary; in short, he had the reputation among his kindred fellows, of possessing experience, cunning, and dexterity, which never fails in *England* to give a man weight with those of his own profession.



So much for my ancestors; from whom, if I derive no honour, I have, alas! inherited a halter.

I had, and I hope I yet have, three brothers—the eldest is a highwayman, the second a pickpocket, and the youngest, if alive, is in the service of a set of money coiners. I was born on the ninth of March, 1766. The exact age of my brothers I have forgotten; but I remember having heard my mother say that there was but three years and three quarters difference between the ages of the oldest and that of the youngest.

A father like ours, it will be readily supposed, did not suffer us to eat the bread of idleness. I do not remember the time when I did not earn my living. My first occupation was in stealing *potatoes, turnips and peas* from the neighbours. When I first trudged a field with my small bag and rum bottle swung over my shoulders, I was hardly able to climb the gates and stiles, and at the close of the day to reach home, was a task of infinite difficulty. My next employment was stealing *fowls, geese, turkeys and ducks*. *Picking pockets* followed, and hence I arrived at the honour of joining a gang of burglars. My natural *cowardice* prevented me from taking to the highway. We were all of us liars and rogues, and my father used to boast that he had four boys, of whom the eldest was but

fifteen years old, who did as much work as any three *pick-pockets* in the parish of Farnham.

It would be useless and unentertaining to dwell on the rogueries of a country boy; to lead the reader through gardens and fields, into henroosts and hogstyes, where I first gave specimens of my skill; I shall, therefore, come at once to the epoch, that gave that turn to my future life, which at last brought me to the United States and to the gibbet.

It was on the sixth of May 1783, that I sallied forth to seek new adventures. I was dressed in a suit of clothes, which had been purloined by one of my father's companions, in order to accompany two or three dames from a common stew to a fair; but instead of going to the fair, I tricked the lasses and went to London. In this metropolis I amused myself in *picking pockets* and *shop lifting*, till I enlisted early in the year 1784, and as peace had then taken place, no great haste was made to send recruits off to their regiments. The leisure time I had after my enlistment was spent in acquiring as much knowledge as would aid me in the successful pursuits of getting money without labour, and in the course of one year, which I devoted to it, I learnt more than I had ever done before. My ambition excited in me a wish to be a leader among my brethren of the long fingered

tribe, and unless I had more learning and more ingenuity than any of them, I could not hope to be successful. This ambition prompted me to devote all my leisure time to books, and being naturally acute, I laid the foundation of that knowledge and those talents, which I have, since my arrival here, faithfully devoted to the service of the king, my master. Before my departure for Nova Scotia I was promoted to the rank of a corporal. We set sail from Gravesend, and after a short passage arrived at Halifax in Nova Scotia. We staid but a few weeks in Nova Scotia; being ordered to St. John's and New Brunswick. Here and at other places we remained till the month of September 1791, when the regiment was relieved and sent home. During my stay, however, in the new World, I again pursued the drift of my genius and inclination, and pilfered wherever opportunity offered. The captain of the company to which I belonged had some handsome shirts to which I took a longing, and borrowed a few of them for my own use. In this I was detected, tried by a court martial, sentenced to receive five hundred lashes well laid on, and to be deprived of the rank of corporal. The sentence was inflicted with the utmost rigor, and so severe was the operation that I fainted away at the halberts, after receiving about half of the punishment.



The remainder of the sentence was delayed for a few days, and then was doubly severe, as my back had not recovered from the preceding operation. This will account for the large scars which I now have on my back. This treatment for so trifling an offence as that of borrowing a few shirts, determined me to take my leave of the regiment as soon as we returned to Old England. We landed at Portsmouth on the third of November, and on the nineteenth of the next month I *deserted*, after having served not quite eight years.

London was my object and to that I hastened, and here I gave a full scope to my propensities. — The second day after my arrival, I picked the pocket of a gentleman of five guineas. A few nights after I associated myself with a set of *burglars*, and we broke open a shop in Cheapside and robbed it of fifty guineas worth of goods, and about ten guineas in cash. My next attempt was on the house of a banker, in company with a notorious villain named *Jack Tryall*. We succeeded and robbed the banker of 500 guineas. This last robbery occasioned considerable alarm, and as a large reward was offered for our apprehension, I determined to take my leave of old England for a time and went to France in March 1792. Paris opened a new field to me, there I intended

to exert all my ingenuity; but in this prospect I was suddenly disappointed; for on my arrival at Calais, not having money enough for the journey, I sallied out one evening, and unluckily picked the pocket of one of the officers of the police. Unfortunately I was detected in the fact, apprehended, taken before one of the tribunals, and sentenced to be whipped *a la mode militaire*. The old wounds in my back were made to bleed afresh by these cut-throats, and revolutionists. Had not the government been changed and purged of its former iniquities I should have escaped so severe a punishment; but to be arrested in the first step was what I could not nor ever will forgive. This reception made me change my determination, and instead of going to Paris, I went into the country. I boarded at a farm house, and supported myself by *dilapidations* from the neighbours. In the neighbourhood where I lived, there lived an Abbe, who had formerly resided in England, where he acquired some knowledge of the English language. With him I soon became acquainted, and it was from him that I acquired my knowledge of the French language. I soon discovered in him a kindred spirit, and we early commenced a partnership, and supported ourselves genteely at the expence of the neighbourhood. After our friendship was confirmed he informed me,

that he was obliged to fly from England for being concerned in counterfeiting guineas & forging bank-notes. My friend the Abbe and myself passed our days very happily together in this innocent neighbourhood for near six months, till at length it began to be suspected and whispered that we were the authors of the robberies of which most of them complained. Having already smarted under the lash of those cursed sans culottes, and cut-throats, and fearing a detection that might expose me to a similar and perhaps a worse fate, I suddenly took my leave and went to *Havre de Grace*. Here I employed myself in my usual occupation till I scraped together money enough to defray my expences to America, for which I determined to embark. I took a passage to New-York and landed there in October 1792.

I have now brought myself to the United States. Alas! it would have been well for me if I had never set foot in any country of liberty and equality! Being without money, I determined to obtain a support in my customary way, and broke open a store in William-street, out of which I got some cash and some fine goods. I had, in the short time I remained in that city, acquired sufficient information to know that this mode of employment would not serve me long; that I would soon be detected, and my race would



soon be at an end. The money I acquired by the robbery in William-street enabled me to take stage for Philadelphia. Here I remained for a short time, and then went to Wilmington. At this last place I determined to avail myself of my knowledge of the French language for a support, and became a teacher. The little encouragement I met with, affording but a scanty subsistence, I left Wilmington and returned to Philadelphia. Here I began to teach the French language, to translate French into English, and now and then to scribble a paragraph for *the Gazette of the United States*.

In the month of July, 1794, Dr. Priestly landed at New-York: Knowing that the persecution of the British government drove him to this country, and knowing at the same time that this would furnish me with an opportunity to panegyryze that government and traduce him, and thereby attract the attention of his Britannic majesty's agents here, and aware that Pitt paid well for services rendered him, I wrote a pamphlet entitled "Observations on the Emigration of Dr. Joseph Priestly." No circumstance of my life afflicts me more than this. In this pamphlet I indulged the rancour of a heart too much devoted to vice, and libelled a philosopher and a friend to human nature, the recollection of which embitters my last moments. I abominated his

principles because they were favourable to liberty, and every thing like liberty or republicanism, I held in detestation from the moment I had a judgment of my own. An affection for my king was drawn in with my mother's milk, and I have ever cherished a love for monarchy with as much zeal as I did a hatred for liberty. Poverty and inclination thus stimulating me, I hoisted the bloody flag against Dr. *Priestly*. The Observations, as I expected, excited the attention of one of his majesty's agents. He soon found me out, and we soon understood each other. He told me that the British cause was languishing in this country, and that some efforts must be speedily made or it would be lost forever. He observed further, that the administration was well disposed towards Great Britain, and had a secret detestation of France since the revolution commenced—that a dread of the people only, who were intoxicated with the French Revolution and the Rights of Man, restrained them from showing their affection for the one and abhorrence of the other—that the administration had an aversion from republican doctrines and principles, and were endeavouring secretly though surely to assimilate the government to that of Great Britain. To effect objects so desirable and so important to his majesty and his cause, it was necessary to alienate the people from

France, and subdue their prejudices against the mother country. He conceived that I had talents which might be successfully employed to this end—that I had given an evidence of my capacity in the Observations, and that he would furnish materials if I would put them into form. He further remarked with a smile, that I had a talent at *misrepresentation* and *fabrication*, which appeared to him original, and would, if well managed, produce great effects upon the minds of the people. Flattered by these civilities, and strongly impressed with a desire to serve my king in whatever country I might be situated, and willing to abandon a mode of life which was attended with so much risque, I enlisted again in the service of my sovereign. Five hundred guineas a year was to be my salary, and if success attended my pursuits, the sum was to be increased. We parted, and he told me at parting, that he would consult some of his friends in the government, obtain their assistance, and in a few days I should hear from him again. In a few days I received a packet from him by a confidential friend of his, containing materials, out of which I formed my “Bone to gnaw for Democrats,” and bank notes to the amount of five hundred dollars. The bone to gnaw was soon ready for the press. It is not necessary here to tell the



reader how faithfully I improved the hints which were given me at the interview with his majesty's agent. The five hundred dollars seemed to have had an influence in brightening my genius, of which I thought it unsusceptible. Falshood of the most flagrant nature, asserted with the utmost confidence, and glossed over as speciously as possible, constituted the essence of my first essay. In a few days after the publication the agent again called upon me, expressed himself well satisfied, and said he would supply me with further materials—that a certain Secretary had promised him an ample stock. He was faithful to his promise, for in a few days I received a large packet, out of which I formed *the second part of the Bone to Gnaw, Plain English, New Year's Gift, Prospect from the Congress Gallery*, and a number of paragraphs for the *Gazette of the United States*—As I mean not to implicate a brother of the type, I will not mention the conversation with the agent relative to the last mentioned Gazette.

My productions began to excite attention. The agent paid me a third visit, and suggested the propriety of coming forth from my obscurity. My fears were great, I trembled at the idea of being known, lest the falshoods and calumnies I had written should excite the resentment of the populace, and I should become a victim to their rage. He laughed at

my fears, told me there was no danger, that the people were a cowardly set and that I should be supported by some of the first characters in the government. He said that he would advance me any sum to procure me a good house, in a central place, that I might have an appearance of doing business; for, he remarked, if I should be discovered in the place I was, and being engaged in no ostensible business, it might create a suspicion, that I was a British emissary, and all our plans would be frustrated. He proposed a book-store as a proper employment, which would afford a good cover to our objects. At his solicitation I consented, took a house in a central part of the city at twelve hundred dollars a year, and opened a book store. He advanced half a year's rent to my landlord, and wrote to a staunch friend of his in New-York to supply me with books, and that he would be accountable. The books were sent and I opened my eyes to a new scene. Here I began my Political Censor; but as my stock of wit was but small my works began to sink in the public estimation, and it was necessary some expedient should be hit upon to realize the prospects before me. Having often heard, that persecution was one of the best means in the world to obtain celebrity, I fabricated a letter, which I conveyed to my landlord, in which his house was threatened, and the

severest denunciations were made against myself. My landlord swallowed the bait—he brought the letter to me, and I wrote a pamphlet upon it called a “*Scare Crow*.” At first this letter made considerable noise, and I had a rapid sale for the pamphlet; but in a few days the people began to smoke me, and I again began to totter. Some assertions were made against me in the public prints which it became necessary to contradict, and therefore, I resolved to give a History of my Adventures in which I blended some truth with much falsehood. A number of publications issued from the press immediately after the history of my life appeared, and among the number *Bradford* did me infinite injury. He alone was in possession of some facts much to my dishonour, and he exhibited them to the world with all the malice of a French cut-throat. So much did I smart under the facts which appeared against me that I began to despair. My friend the agent, however, encouraged me by telling me of the number of friends I had, and by making me liberal allowances. He told me that the moment was critical, that the administration was alarmed, that the friends to Great Britain were in consternation, and that we must persevere in our efforts against France and against republicanism or we should be undone. That the British treaty had been carried to be sure,



But that the majority was so small as to excite considerable apprehensions in the administration. That there was great reason to fear that France would manifest ill temper at our connection with Great Britain and the dissolution of our ties with her, and that the plans must be laid to secure the ground which had been conquered, and to effect a rupture in the end with the French Republic. He said that the government was ripe for the event; but the people had such a bias in favour of France, that the experiment would be too hazardous, unless a greater change could be effected in the public mind. He suggested the propriety of commencing a daily paper, as a preferable mode to a monthly work, for accomplishing the object. In support of the establishment of a daily paper he urged the advantages which would arise to me from it; that the officers of the government would aid it with all their influence, and that he would furnish a fund to give it a gratuitous circulation. I promised to take the proposal into consideration, and requested him to allow me some time to think of it.

The expected explosion from the French Republic at length took place through her minister ADÉT. He suspended his functions by order of the Executive Directory, and stated the grounds of resentment to the world. Although the people were much alarmed at

this event, the Administration were undismayed—things were working according to their plans and wishes. To make their purposes more secure, PINCKNEY had been sent to supersede MONROE. They were well apprised that the new minister could not be received agreeably to national etiquette, and the existing state of things, and the refusal would prove a strong argument to break entirely with the French Republic. The train was well laid and nothing was wanting but the match of time to give the explosion.

I continued my Censor and occasionally gave a political blunderbuss, till the meeting of Congress. After Congress were in session a communication was made to them on French affairs. A long letter signed by the Secretary of State, and addressed to the minister PINCKNEY accompanied the communication. This letter was exactly in the stile which my friend the agent suggested, and was well calculated to favour the contemplated rupture. The administration was determined, my friend told me, (for he was in their confidence) at all events to break with France, and to form an alliance with great Britain. Encouraged by such flattering appearances, I resolved to publish a daily paper, that I might contribute my means to accomplish the design, and accordingly published my proposals. My subscription was rapid and great. Officers

of government, clergymen and tories seemed to vie with each other in my support. The Rev. Mr. *Abercrombie* assisted me in obtaining subscriptions, and was always ready with his aid and counsel. He professed great affection for me and for the cause I was embarked in, and seemed to relish the obscenities I now and then indulged in, as much as any of my patrons. No one can accuse him of being starched.

It is unnecessary to state in this place, the temper of my paper—the libels, the falsehoods and the indecencies it contained. At one moment I libelled the Governor, at another Mr. MONROE, and so I went on through the whole catalogue of American patriots. Every falsehood which my inveteracy to the United States for their former rebellion, to the French Republic, and to republicanism could supply, was dealt out with a lavish hand. Finding that some little irritation had taken place in the public mind against the depredations upon our commerce by French cruizers, I determined to try the temper of it, and if possible by one bold stroke, give a complete ascendancy to the British interest. To effect this I wrote a letter containing an account of an association of *Democrats* to join the French in case of an attempt upon this country, and to give this letter the appearance of reality I signed it GEORGE WILSON, sen'r. I em-



ployed a confidential friend to copy this letter and to convey it to my letter-box. Lest it might be supposed a forgery, I took care to have evidence at hand when I received the letter, to vouch for my having received it. The letter was published with all imaginable solemnity; but the effect disappointed me. Instead of seeing a violent tumult, and an immediate arrestation of the leading Democrats, I was summoned to appear before the Mayor of the city to answer for the publication. My consternation at this unexpected turn was indescribable. My coward heart was ready to die within me. Heretofore I never left my own house but under cover of the night or of a fog, or before I had previously reconnoitered the street, and saw that all was safe; and to be obliged now to appear in propria personæ, and that too before a legal tribunal, almost petrified me, I felt my heart in my breeches. My clerical friend and the agent called upon me and bade me be of good cheer. At the office of the mayor I was obliged to answer a number of interrogatories; but contrary to my expectation, I was treated with great attention by some of the persons present, which explained the words of my friend the agent when he bade me be of good cheer. Instead of the punishment which I expected for the forgery, I was dismissed with politeness, and return-

ed home with a heart as light as a feather. Finding myself thus patronized, and finding that the interest of the king my master was substantially supported by men in authority, I determined to publish another Censor, to which I annexed my last will and testament, or my last libel upon the patriotic Americans. Little did I then imagine that what was suggested by a sportive imagination, was a presentiment of my end. This last effort was too audacious—it excited general indignation and caused an information to be lodged against me of a conspiracy against the government. I was arrested, my papers were seized and *the plan discovered, to subjugate this Country to the power of Great Britain.* I was tried for high treason, convicted and sentenced to be hanged and my body to be delivered to the professor of anatomy for dissection. Thus have I arrived at life's goale, and thus am I rewarded for an uninterrupted course of infamy and wretchedness. I hope my unhappy fate will prove a warning to others and that an ignominious end will make some atonement for the crimes of my life. My object was, and I now solemnly confess it in the presence of the offended Deity, to re-establish the British dominion in this country, and to restore the United States again to their dependance upon Great Britain, and to accomplish this I traduced the character

of *Franklin* and of *Paine*, and of every patriot who aided in the revolution, and have remained faithful to his first purpose. To effect an object so desirable I sneered at the late revolution and endeavoured to throw disgrace upon it and the actors in it, as my writings will testify. The *Democrats* were my abhorrence for they were in the way of my plans. They were constantly on the watch, and often sounding alarm. Had it not been for their machinations, my life would not at this moment be so near its close, neither would the plans of my employers have proved abortive. My last breath shall be spent in cursing them for foiling me, in cursing the American and French Revolutions and every thing that looks like republicanism, or liberty and equality.

" Now heav'n fulfil my curses on their heads !

May ev'ry purpose of their souls be frustrate !

May infamy and ruin o'ertake them !

May base captivity and chains overwhelm them !

May shameful crimson from their shoulders start,

Like mine dishonor'd by the servile scourge !"



EXECUTION AND DISSECTION  
OF  
*PETER PORCUPINE.*

With a Glossary, by the Author.

---

ON Saturday last made his exit, owing to a hempen neck-cloth being drawn too tightly about his neck, on the public square near the Centre-house, one of PITT's hirelings, known by the name of PETER PORCUPINE. He appeared to have had a presentiment of his fate, whether from an accusing conscience, or from some intimation given him by his friend *Belzebub*, cannot now be known; but such was his impression of the approaching and awful moment, that he made his *last* will and testament, in which he intended some atonement for his life, by bequeathing his body for dissection. As the causes of diseases are very often discovered by dissection, and remedies are found out by the ascertainment of the causes, it seemed to be his opinion, that there either might exist a physical derangement, by which moral infirmity was excited, and which might be remedied by a knowledge of the cause; or he deemed a submission of his carcass to the knife, as all the atonement he could make for the transgressions of his life, and therefore doomed himself to the exposure and fate of a *felon*. He was attended on his visit to the public square by a would be divine, his particular friend and counsellor, and who was converted into an apostolic missionary as suddenly after the failure in a cashiership, as St. Paul was on his way to Damascus, though not by the same invisible agent. This *pious* priest and *news-boy* endeavoured to com-

fort him, by talking to him of a paradise, of which he knew little, and about grace of which he knew less; but Peter was like Rachel, who wept over her lost children, and would not be comforted. Despair, the consequence of an over-load of guilt, had seized him, and the apparent agony of his mind excited the sympathy of an injured people. Like CLIVE, his eyes longed for mercy; but like him, despair only was to be found. His fate was the most eloquent and pathetic lecture on morality and religion, perhaps, that ever was delivered. BOSSUET, in his famous funeral oration on Mary of Austria, the queen of France, was not so eloquent, nor so impressive.

Agreeably to his own will and testament, and in conformity to a certain other decree, his body was delivered to the anatomical professor for dissection, which exhibited the following phenomena:—

On the back was a cluster of *long scars*; they appeared like the cicatrices from deep scarifications: the professor supposed them to have been occasioned by a *cat o' nine tails*, as he once discovered the same appearance on the back of a British soldier, who had been severely whipped some time before his death. On opening the *thorax* a sœtor issued so offensive as to be nearly intollerable. It resembled the finell from a dog in a state of putrefaction. On removing the *sternum* the thoracic viscera exhibited a most extraordinary and unnatural appearance. The *lungs* were of a crimson colour, composed of three lobes, the third lobe occupying the place of the *mediastinum*. They were of enormous size. On making an incision into them a vapour arose which benumbed the faculties of the bye-standers. On applying a candle near the orifice, it was extinguished. A mouse was held over the lungs and he instantly expired. These phenomena led to an opinion, that the air, which had been contained in the lungs, was of the same kind with that in the *grotto del cani* near Naples, rendered famous by the destruction of dogs, called

formerly *gas fulvifère*, but known at present by the name of the *aërial or cretaceous acid*. A strong sulphureous stench arose from the lungs; they were soon removed with a pair of tongs, and thrown into the vault. The thorax seemed to be exclusively allotted to the lungs, for no other viscus was to be found. Nothing remarkable appeared about the pleura.

On opening the *abdomen* the first thing which discovered itself was the *spleen*, of an enormous size; it supplied the place of the *stomach*, extended itself across the abdomen, and occupied a considerable portion of the hypogastric region. It adhered to the *diaphragm*. On making an incision into it, a yellow mist arose, which tinged and distorted every object; the effluvia had a remarkable effect on the by-standers; they no longer saw in each other the same persons; they became fretful and peevish, and would have quarrelled with each other, had not the professor interposed, and by ordering the windows and doors to be thrown open, dissipated the mist and restored the persons to their original appearance. The *oesophagus* entered at the left orifice, which in the stomach is known by the name of *cardia*, and the *rectum* began at the right orifice known by the name of *pylorus*. There was but one *intestine*, which might be called the *rectum*, as it formed the *anus*. It was a straight gut, and had no *valves*, by which it appeared that its contents could be discharged either upwards or downwards.

The *liver* was of unusual size, and of a sooty colour. On its concave side, beginning at its upper part and extending itself as low down as the fissure, was the *gall bladder*, of the dimensions of an ordinary urinary bladder. It was in a state of extreme distension. On making an incision into it, a mud coloured fluid issued from it extremely fetid. Two *ducts* communicated with the *gall bladder*; one from the *oesophagus*.



gus, and the other from the *rectum*. On opening the convex surface of the liver, a large *sac* discovered itself, in which was contained a number of small living animals resembling *toads*. There was a communication between this *sac* and the gall bladder, by means of a duct. On being exposed to the light, these toad-like animals expired, apparently in convulsive agonies.

Between the *bladder* and the *anus*, a small black substance attracted attention, which was somewhat larger than a grape-shot. On examination, it was found to be a *heart*, enveloped in a *pericardium*, which at first resisted the knife. After some difficulty the *pericardium* was removed, and a fluid resembling coffee grounds was discharged, which on examination appeared to be a substance similar to the excrementitious matter from a *hog*. The heart, which was little larger than that of a *chicken*, had a livid appearance, and in many places gangrenous spots. Both *auricles* and *ventricles*, as well as the *pulmonary artery*, the *aorta*, and the *venæ cavæ*, were charged with a dark coloured fluid resembling putrid bile. From the situation of the heart it might be said literally to have been in *his breeches*.

The *pancreas*, or *sweet bread*, appeared either not to have existed or to have been totally obliterated.

The *cranium*, or *skull*, almost baffled the efforts of the surgeons, it was of such immense *thickness* and solidity. Several saws were ruined by it. On removing it, the *dura* and *pia mater* made equal resistance to the scalpel; they seemed to be formed of *corneous* matter. The *brain* was about the size of a goose's egg. There was no *cerebellum*; the little which appeared was *cerebrum* only. On cutting into the *cerebrum* it was hollow, and in the cavity were myriads of small animals, which on examination with a glass resembled *tad-poles*. The fluid which cherished them was of a mud colour.

The *tongue* was bifurcated and perforated. At the root of it were two small bags, the one containing a fluid like that in the gall bladder; the other like that contained in the spleen. Each of these bags had a duct which entered them from the oesophagus.

The *ears* had no *lobes*—they appeared to have been pared away by a sharp instrument.

The foregoing is a short but accurate account of the dissection of PETER PORCUPINE, and the phenomena which his carcase discovered. To the ingenious and the learned will be left the solution of the extraordinary appearances.

---

### *Glossary of the Terms of Art contained in the above Dissection.*

---

*Thorax*, the breast.

*Sternum*, the breast-bone.

*Thoracic viscera*, the contents of the breast.

The *lungs* are composed of *two lobes* in natural cases; but in the present case there was one lobe extraordinary, which occupied the place of the *mediastinum*—the *mediastinum* is a membrane which forms a partition in the breast, and divides it into two parts.

*Gas filvestre*, *aërial* or *cretaceous acid*, are synonymous terms for fixed air.

*Pleura*, a membrane which lines the inside of the breast.

*Abdomen*, lower belly.

*Hypogastric region*, that part of the body from the navel down to the bottom of the belly and the hip bones.

*Diaphragm*, midriff, a fleshy and membranous substance which forms a partition between the breast and the belly.

*Oesophagus*, gullet.

*Cardia*, left orifice of the stomach.

*Pylorus*, the right orifice.

*Rectum*, one of the large guts.

*Valve*—The guts have plaits to prevent the contents from passing upwards, which are called valves.

*Pericardium*, a membrane that covers the heart; it contains a liquor to lubricate the surface of the heart.

*Auricles and ventricles*—The heart has four cavities; the two upper are called auricles, and the two lower ventricles.

*Pulmonary artery*, one of the great blood vessels leading from the heart.

*Aorta*, the other great blood vessel leading from the heart.

*Vena cava*, the large veins which return the blood to the heart.

*Dura mater*, a strong membrane which lines the inside of the skull.

*Pia mater*, a fine membrane which covers the brain.

*Cerebellum*, a portion of the brain which, according to the Shandean hypothesis, is supposed to be the residence of the understanding.

*Cerebrum*, that part of the brain which occupies the upper part of the head.

*Lobes*—The lower and soft part of the ear is termed lobe.

